

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 1-4 and 7-48 stand in this application. Claims 5 and 6 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the standing claims are respectfully requested.

Although Applicant disagrees with the broad grounds of rejection set forth in the Office Action, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 7 in order to facilitate prosecution on the merits.

Allowed Claims

We would like to thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 21-48.

Allowable Claims

We would like to thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 6-9, 14, 15 and 20 if amended to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claim 6 has been canceled and its subject matter has been incorporated into amended independent claim 1. Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claim 1 and all claims directly or indirectly depending therefrom are in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 102

At page 2, paragraph 2 of the Office Action claims 1-4, 10-13 and 16-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by United States Patent Number (USPN) 5,861,773 to Meyer ("Meyer"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection, and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the anticipation rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of dependent claim 6 has been indicated as allowable on page 5 of the Office Action. Furthermore, as recited above, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claim 6 has been canceled and its subject matter has been incorporated into amended independent claim 1. Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests removal of the anticipation rejection with respect to claim 1. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the anticipation rejection with respect to claims 2-4, 10-13 and 16-19 which depend from claim 1 and, therefore, contain additional features that further distinguish these claims from Meyer.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant submits that claims 1-4, 10-13 and 16-19 recite novel features not shown by the cited reference. Further, Applicant submits that the above-recited novel features provide new and unexpected results not recognized by the cited reference. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the claims are not anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the cited reference.

Applicant does not otherwise concede, however, the correctness of the Office Action's rejection with respect to any of the dependent claims discussed above. Accordingly, Applicant hereby reserves the right to make additional arguments as may be

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necessary to further distinguish the dependent claims from the cited references, taken alone or in combination, based on additional features contained in the dependent claims that were not discussed above. A detailed discussion of these differences is believed to be unnecessary at this time in view of the basic differences in the independent claims pointed out above.

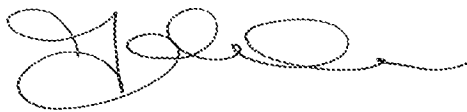
It is believed that claims 1-4 and 7-48 are in allowable form. Accordingly, a timely Notice of Allowance to this effect is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 724-933-9338 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to the credit card in the previously filed credit card authorization form.

Respectfully submitted,

KACVINSKY LLC



John F. Kacvinsky, Reg. No. 40,040
Under 37 CFR 1.34(a)

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